



Information for Parents

“Language Comprehension in Preschool Age”

Dear Parents,

In the Developmental Psychology research group at the University of Tübingen, we investigate how children acquire language, in particular how they understand different words. In the current study, we are interested in the understanding of word stress in the German language in the context of the languages children acquire. Your child can participate in our study if he or she...

- **is between 2 and 4 years old (inclusive)**
- **speaks German as a second language, meaning another language was learned first and German was added later**
- understands at least simple words in German (e.g., car, duck, plate)
- has no visual or hearing impairments

Our examination consists of one appointment and lasts approximately 60 minutes. Your child will watch videos of pictures and associated words. We will measure your child's eye movements during this process. We will also ask you, the parents, to fill out some questionnaires. You can fill out the questionnaires at our office.

Questionnaires

We have several questions about you, your child, and your household. For example, we ask about your educational background and about the language or languages your child hears at home and during childcare outside the family. We need this information both to answer our scientific research question about growing up in different language environments and to describe the participants of the study. This is necessary in order to compare different studies. Completing the questionnaires will take approximately 20 minutes.

Recording of Eye Movements

By tracking your child's eye movements, we test which images your child looks at. We show your child images and videos on a screen. We record your child's eye movements using a device called an “eye tracker.” This device can follow the movements of your child's pupils. This allows us to find out which images your child looks at and for how long. This method is completely harmless and poses no risk to your child. The cameras do not record your child's face, so the recording is anonymous. The data cannot be linked to your child. You will, of course, be with your child throughout the entire examination.

Anonymity and Data Protection

All your information will be treated anonymously and confidentially. All persons involved in the study are obligated to maintain data confidentiality. Your data will be stored anonymously on the day of participation for long-term storage and processing. Until you leave after the experiment, you may request the deletion of all your data. All anonymized data will be stored for at least 10 years and may be reused for research purposes.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in our study is voluntary. You may withdraw from the study at any time without any disadvantages for you or your child.

Scientific Evaluation of the Data

The study does not focus on your child's individual performance. We are generally interested in when and how children understand their first words. Please understand that we cannot provide information about your child's developmental level.

Thank You

Scientific research depends on voluntary participants. With your participation, you make an important contribution to the study of language acquisition in early childhood. For completing the questionnaires and your child's participation, your child will receive a small token of appreciation: a voucher for a local bookstore or toy shop, a toy, or a book worth 15 €. You will receive this token of appreciation even if the study is ended early.

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the study director: Jana Engel M.Sc. (jana.engel@uni-tuebingen.de).

Kind regards from Developmental Psychology,



Jana Engel M.Sc.

